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DEPARTMENT FOR S/CRS, EUR/ERA, AF/RSA, INR/EUC

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SUBJECT: EU RESPONSE TO S/CRS NON-PAPER ON CRISIS MANAGEMENT

1.(U) IN RESPONSE TO A RECENT NON-PAPER SENT BY S/CRS TO THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT RESPONDED OCTOBER 28, WITH APPROVAL OF THE SWEDISH EU PRESIDENCY. FULL TEXT OF RESPONSE IS IN PARA 2.

2.(SBU) VERBATIM TEXT OF EU RESPONSE:

The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (GSC) takes note of the non-paper received from S/CRS on the EU-US work plan on Technical Dialogue and Increased Cooperation in Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention.

The GSC proposes that the work plan continues to be implemented in a pragmatic manner and welcomes greater focus on areas where both sides can add value to ongoing or potential activities on the ground.

In particular, the GSC notes the useful exchanges to date - including in the fields of training, where an EU staff member was able to participate in S/CRS training courses - and recent horizontal discussions on training, planning and concepts.

The GSC welcomes the S/CRS offer to host EU experts in Washington for two crisis management workshops and a wider EU delegation visit in the coming period and looks forward to a fruitful dialogue on crisis management cooperation.

Given certain imminent organisational changes within the Council Secretariat, it is proposed that the issue of an exchange of planners is revisited at a later date. The GSC proposes the EU proposes deepened cooperation in the form of collaborative work on a common planning methodology for multi-actor, multi dimensional CM operations. The starting point for this work could be the strategic planning framework developed during Multi-national Experiment 5.

The GSC proposes that the US is fully involved in briefings and consultations in the framework of the CME CMX 2010 exercise, as well as the exchange of exercise-related documentation.

The EU highly appreciates US cooperation to date in the ambit of ESDP operations and welcomes S/CRS interest in sending personnel to ESDP missions. The GSC is happy to follow up with further information on the technical requirements/possibilities for secondments. Both sides should give due consideration to the signature of an agreement establishing a framework for the participation of the United States in EU crisis management operations. The conclusion of such an agreement would serve to facilitate the participation of US personnel in those ESDP missions for which the decision to solicit Third State contributions has been made.

The GSC welcomes S/CRS interest in supporting AU efforts to prevent conflicts and build sustainable peace and the suggestion of the secondment to the AU of Civilian Response Corps members. The GSC is happy to explore possibilities for further cooperation - in alignment with UN activities in this area - through dialogue between sectoral experts.

With the aim of deepening implementation of the existing EU-US agreement on the exchange of classified information, the GSC proposes technical discussions to explore the feasibility of an electronic means of exchange of classified information.

MURRAY